

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Corporation for National and Community Service

AmeriCorps State Program Recovery Plan

AmeriCorps State and National engages individuals (AmeriCorps members) in service to support thousands of local community organizations. The AmeriCorps members' service expands these organizations' capacity to achieve their missions and builds community involvement and support. Additionally, each AmeriCorps member recruits and manages an average of 12 community volunteers.

AmeriCorps has a track record of accomplishment in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and health and human services. AmeriCorps members develop an ethic of service and the leadership skills needed for active, productive citizenship, and research shows they are more likely to maintain a commitment to their communities after their service has ended.

Depending on the community and local organization's need, individuals enrolled as AmeriCorps members provide between 300 to 1,700 hours of service. AmeriCorps members might receive a small stipend to offset their living expenses while engaged in this extensive service experience and are eligible for an Eli Segal Education Award upon successful completion of their term of service. The Education Award can be used to repay qualified student loans or to pay for further education.

Funding

Operating Expenses, Recovery Act (95-2729 2009 \ 2010)

AmeriCorps State and National Total: \$89,000,000

Wyoming Total: \$51,484 (population-based formula funds)

Approximately 2/3 of the funds will be awarded competitively to existing, proven AmeriCorps grantees – either directly or via state service commissions. By statute, 1/3 of the funding will be distributed to state service commissions based on a population-based formula and, in turn, states will select grant recipients. Approximately \$1 million will be used to pay the childcare costs of eligible Recovery AmeriCorps Members. All of the grant funds will go to non-federal recipients.

AmeriCorps State and National does not anticipate increases or reductions in future operational costs related to Recovery Act funding.

Objectives

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), AmeriCorps State programs will recruit and retain individuals in service to their communities while meeting critical community needs resulting from, or exacerbated by, the current economic crisis. Individuals currently unemployed will gain work experience and valuable skills, and nonprofit organizations and communities negatively affected by the economic crisis will gain critical human resources.

Recovery Act funding through the AmeriCorps program will be awarded as grants to current Wyoming AmeriCorps sub-grantees with a proven track record and demonstrate the capacity to efficiently and effectively draw upon this new resource to assist communities in need. Grants will include additional members and/or match waivers and/or federal funds for the grantee portion of the match. Successful applicants will receive a one-year operating grant and will be expected to implement Recovery activities as soon as possible. AmeriCorps members funded through the Recovery Act will engage in a range of activities in service to individuals and communities affected by the economic crisis. The service of the AmeriCorps members will also bolster the capacity of community organizations that are faced with an increased need for their services.

ServeWyoming has already applied for and received our formula allocation of \$51,484 in recovery funds. These monies have been divided equally between four of our current AmeriCorps sub-grantee programs: Sheridan County YMCA, University of Wyoming - Wyoming Conservation Corps, University of Wyoming – Center for Volunteer Service, and Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

All four programs will use these funds for match replacement. Recovery Act funds are available for match replacement to help our sub-grantees successfully implement their current program (2008-2009) as approved or their pending application (2009-2010). Due to the economy and the rural challenges we face, our programs have been experiencing difficulties recruiting and retaining members. Our goal is to help programs free up some match from other committed sources, and use the recovery funds to either supplement or replace their grantee share for member living allowances. To make the most impact in our communities, our programs must maintain their capacity; otherwise the valuable services they provide will disappear.

Measurement and Evaluation

Grantees will submit quarterly progress reports showing their progress toward meeting their targets. These grantees will continue to report separately on their non-Recovery AmeriCorps activities.

Progress and Financial Reports will be submitted by sub-grantees to ServeWyoming which will provide information on recruitment and retention levels; financial stability in correlation to the recovery funds; and what match sources, if any, were replaced. These quarterly progress and financial reports will be due 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter, beginning April 2009 until the grant closeout, with the first report due July 10, 2009.

Performance data related to Recovery Act activities will be made available to the public on the Corporation's website www.nationalservice.gov and on www.Recovery.gov.

Additional guidance that ServeWyoming must adhere to can be found at: http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/09_0310_recovery_sn_guidance.pdf